

behind these meetings was Timothy Thomas Fortune, an African American editor and activist in New York.³⁶ Fortune was well known in African American circles and corresponded regularly with Booker T. Washington. He called for changes to national laws to address failures of whites to protect the lives of black citizens in southern states. Further, in response to calls for black disfranchisement, Fortune argued that if blacks were to be removed from voting, that representation in the House of Representatives should be reapportioned to reflect the diminished voting population of southern states.³⁷

An issue of the *Literary Digest* published in New York at the end of November, combined the violence of the two states when it opened its long article on "Race Troubles in the Carolinas" with the statement that "more than thirty persons are said to have been killed . . . in North and South Carolina." "Race Troubles in the Carolinas," *Literary Digest* (New York), November 26, 1898.

³⁶ The *Raleigh Morning Post* noted that there was a concerted effort in many major cities to coordinate meetings throughout the northern states. At a meeting in New York, the city's ministers met to condemn the riots, and some argued that new Wilmington mayor Alfred M. Waddell, South Carolina politician Ben Tillman, and Wilmington's new police chief Edgar Parmele should be lynched. The ministers also took up collections to help Wilmington blacks. Meetings were held in Buffalo, New York, to press the president to "interfere in behalf of oppressed negroes in North and South Carolina." Yet another meeting took place in Asbury Park, New Jersey, in which Alex Manly figured prominently. Manly spoke at the meeting and explained his editorial. Attendees prepared a resolution to be sent to the president asking for assistance and took up a collection to help Manly. According to a telegraph sent to the *Wilmington Star* from someone in New York, Manly was not asked to speak at some meetings because it was claimed that "his ideas are of a somewhat radical nature and after a conference with him it was decided that he had better not deliver an address as his feelings might get the better of his prudence." *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 17, 24, 25, 1898; *Raleigh Morning Post*, November 15, 1898.

³⁷ *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 13, 1898; *Chicago Tribune*, November 18, 1898; *New York*

The largest of the meetings was held on November 17, 1898, in New York at the Cooper Union. At the meeting, arranged by Fortune to coincide with similar meetings in other states, over 6,000 people Fortune and other African American leaders speak on the violence. Accounts of the "indignation meeting," as it was called by the Democratic press, were circulated to a multitude of outlets, including North Carolina papers. The meeting adopted a series of resolutions that protested the violence, derided state governors of North and South Carolina for



Editorial Cartoon, *New York World*, November 13, 1898.

Image Courtesy of Cape Fear Museum

their inaction, and pressured politicians for justice. One of the leading proposals that came from the meeting was an amendment to the U. S. Constitution to enable the president to step in and protect citizens from

Times, November 14, 1898; McDuffie, "Politics in Wilmington," 751; *Wilmington Messenger*, December 2, 1898.